

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00241 120607Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 PRS-01 IO-13 AID-05  
AGRE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
IGA-02 USIA-06 INRE-00 SSO-00 /059 W  
-----125565 120614Z /14  
O 120552Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8635

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0241

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID KS  
SUBJ: PL-480 AGREEMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: A. 77 SEOUL 10264, B. 77 STATE 304844, C. 77 SEOUL 10049

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION TCHAH HWA-JUNE SUMMONED ECON COUNSELOR ON JANUARY 10 TO DISCUSS SUBJECT AGREEMENT AND AGAIN ON JANUARY 11. HE ASKED WHY WE COULD NOT GO BACK TO OLD WORDING ON USE OF PROCEEDS IN THE PL-480 AMENDMENT NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE NEW WORDING HAD BEEN ADOPTED IN ORDER TO SATISFY SECTION 112 OF THE NEW LEGISLATION. SIMILAR WORDING WAS BEING FORCED ON 5 OTHER COUNTRIES ACCUSED OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. HE CONCLUDED THAT IN SIGNING THE AMENDMENT AS PROPOSED, THE ROKG WOULD BE ADMITTING IT WAS "ENGAGED IN A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS," AS STATED IN NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE (REF B). TT WAS NOT PREPARED TO DO THAT.

2. ECON COUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT ON THE CONTRARY, NO SUCH CONCLUSION WAS POSSIBLE, AS SUGGESTED BY GUIDANCE IN REF. B. RATHER, ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION AND OF USG FINDING THEREON WAS RENDERED INAPPLICABLE BY ADOPTION OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS LANGUAGE.

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3. TCHAH UNDERSTOOD POINT, BUT STILL WAS UNPERSUADED ABOUT CONCLUSION, SINCE ONLY COUNTRIES "AS TO WHICH THERE ARE SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM" (REF. B) WERE BEING ASKED TO ACCEPT THE LANGUAGE. HE WAS CONSIDERING ASKING FOR WRITTEN ASSURANCES ON THIS POINT BUT WOULD CONSULT WITH THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER.

4. COMMENT: WE GAVE THE TEXT OF SECTION 112 TO THE ROKG WHEN WE FIRST PROPOSED THE NEW AMENDMENT. IT WAS OUR CONCLUSION THAT ALTHOUGH THEY UNDERSTOOD THE REASON FOR THE NEW WORDING, THEY PREFERRED NOT TO MAKE IT AN EXPLICIT ISSUE AS REPORTED IN REF. A. ALTHOUGH WE MAY HAVE BEEN WRONG AND THEY MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD, IT IS CLEAR THAT NEWSPAPER STORIES IN TIMES AND ELSEWHERE, AS REINFORCED BY MESSAGES FROM THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSY HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT AVOID MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE EXPLICIT. AS A RESULT, ANY SIGNATURE WILL NOT BE DELAYED AND THE ROKG MAY FINALLY TURN THE AGREEMENT DOWN. THE EFFECT OF SUCH A DECISION ON THEIR REQUEST FOR A LONGER-TERM AGREEMENT (REF. C) AND U.S. AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO KOREA IS NOT CLEAR, AS THE ROKG HAS NOT AS YET FACED THAT ISSUE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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